

usual food-plants found in the region, was present anywhere in the locality. The eggs were laid, as usual, singly either underneath the edge of leaves or occasionally on stems.

The next day, in the company of B. R. Sawford, a further examination of the plants was made, when 15 eggs were located, some on nearby plants, but most on the original patch. A couple of eggs and a portion of food plant were taken for rearing to see if the caterpillars would feed normally. Later, on 20th June, a return visit was made to try and find caterpillars in the wild, but unfortunately, the field had just been rough-cut, and, despite a detailed search of the debris, only one egg was discovered. The success of this abnormal food plant in the wild was not therefore established. With the eggs removed for rearing, however, one caterpillar hatched, but refused to eat the dock, and died. Whether this was a sickly specimen or whether the food plant was unpalatable, however, will never be known.

As a corollary to this observation, a record submitted by another observer, Mrs. J. King of Flamstead, for the Hertfordshire atlas also indicates that a female brimstone was watched laying eggs on dock (species not stated) at Flamstead on 16th July 1986. In this case it is not known whether buckthorn exists in the vicinity. However, while one record may be an aberrant coincidence two records separated in both time and space perhaps need further examination. TREVOR J. JAMES, North Hertfordshire Museums Service, Old Fire Station, High Street, Baldock, Hertfordshire SG7 6AR.

*GLAENOCORISA PROPINQUA* (FIEB.) (HET.: CORIXIDAE) IN WEST CUMBRIA. — I took two specimens of this local corixid in Lank Rigg Tarn (NY09.11) Cumbria on 12 May 1986. The tarn lies at an altitude of about 1,750 feet and is situated near the summit of Lank Rigg fell, in an exposed situation. *Glaenocorisa propinqua* is an uncommon species and found mainly in northern Britain, but has also been recorded from Ireland, Scotland, Yorkshire and also Somerset. T. T. Macan in his *Key to the British Water Bugs* (1965, Scient.Pubs.Freshwat.biol.Ass. No 16:67) states that the species is scarce in the Lake District and found only occasionally in tarns. Macan (1976, *J. Anim. Ecol.* 45: 913-922) gives Hodson's Tarn as a locality for this corixid, and suggests that it is a casual migrant without a habitat in the Lake District. — R. W. J. READ, 43 Holly Terrace, Hensingham, Whitehaven, Cumbria CA 28 8RF.

THIRD-BROOD SPECIMENS OF *ECTROPIS BISTORTATA* GOEZE (LEP.: GEOMETRIDAE) — On October 13th 1986 a male of this species was observed at m.v. light at Dartford; this is particularly noteworthy in view of the poor summer conditions prevailing in